P. BAGGE'S
APOCALYPSE™
NERD
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6 OF 6
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THREE DAYS LATER...
THIS DEER MEAT IS DISGUSTING...
YOU USED TO LIVE ON THIS STUFF?
NOT BY CHOICE...
AND GORDO KNEW HOW TO PREPARE IT BETTER SOMEHOW...
HE WAS THE MEAT EXPERT BETWEEN THE TWO OF US...
BUT WE GOTTA MAKE OUR CANNED FOOD LAST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, MIDGE...
ONCE IT'S GONE WE'RE REALLY GOING TO MISS IT.
I'M SURE WE WILL...
PTUI!
MAYBE FLEEING INTO THE WOODS WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
IF WE STAYED PUT WE COULD HAVE—
(QUIET! I HEAR A CAR)...
BRRM...
RUMM...

-MIDGE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SOME-ONE MIGHT SEE YOU!
I JUST WANT TO TAKE A LOOK...
BLAM! BLAM!
?!?
DRAT. MISSED.
ARE YOU INSANE? YOU COULD'VE KILLED THOSE PEOPLE!
AND WE NEED TO SAVE THOSE BULLETS FOR HUNTING FOOD!
I WAS HUNTING FOOD!
THAT S.U.V. WAS LOADED WITH SUPPLIES...
AND SINCE WHEN ARE YOU ABOVE KILLING PEOPLE?
THAT WAS DIFFERENT!
AND YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO EATING "SURVIVOR FOOD," SINCE THAT'S ALL THERE'S GOING TO BE TO EAT SOON ENOUGH!
I'M NOT EATING ANY BUGS.
WE SHOULD GET A MOVE ON...
WE COULD GET ANOTHER TEN MILES IN BEFORE DARK...
WHY BOTHER? I SAY WE STAY PUT FOR TONIGHT.
THE SOONER WE REACH THE CABIN THE BETTER...
I DON'T WANT TO RISK GETTING STUCK IN THE RAIN AGAIN...
BUT I'M EXHAUSTED! WHAAH!

THE NEXT DAY...
ARE WE THERE YET?
HUFF- PUFF
NO, AND STOP ASKING...
I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE'RE CLOSE...
WE HAVEN'T EATEN YET TODAY...
LET'S OPEN SOME TUNA FISH...
NO!
EAT SOME OF THOSE ROOTS WE DUG UP INSTEAD.
ROOTS. BLECH!
I SAY WE EITHER EAT TUNA FISH OR ROB SOME PASSERSBY...
OTHERWISE JUST HAND ME THE GUN AND I'LL BLOW MY BRAINS OUT RIGHT NOW...
-WHOA!
WHAT IS IT?
I ALMOST STEPPED ON THIS BEAR TRAP!
I WOULD'VE BEEN FUCKED IF I DID!
A "BEAR TRAP"? LIKE THE ONES IN OLD CARTOONS?
YEAH, ONLY THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE RUSTED OPEN...
POKE!
POKE!
I GUESS IT'S BEEN OUT HERE FOR A WHILE...
WELL, THAT'S GOOD...
I'M STILL HUNGRY...
CAN WE EAT SOME PEANUT BUTTER?
CAN WE?
HMMM...
?!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

AND SO...
...ONCE SOMEONE DRIVES OVER THIS THING THEY'RE SURE TO GET A BLOW OUT...
AND WHILE THEY'RE INCAPACITATED WE'LL HOLD 'EM UP FOR ALL THE PEANUT BUTTER AND TUNA FISH THEY'VE GOT ON 'EM...
WHAT IF THEY CRASH AND DIE?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AGAINST KILLING PEOPLE.
THAT'S WHY I PLACED IT ON THIS SHARP TURN...
THE DRIVER WILL HAVE TO SLOW DOWN AS THEY APPROACH—
LISTEN! SOMEONE'S COMING!
BARROOOM...
QUICK! HIDE!
I HOPE THIS PLAN OF YOURS WORKS.
BRUMBLERUMLE
UH-OH. IT LOOKS LIKE AN ARMY TRUCK...
VAROOM...
THEY'RE GOING PRETTY FAST, TOO...
IF THEY DON'T SLOW DOWN THEY MIGHT...
BLAM!
BASH!
...DRIVE OFF THE CLIFF.
OH MY.

KER-SMASH!
OH, SHIT.
...GOD... WHAT A MESS...
SEE ANY SIGNS OF LIFE DOWN THERE?
I CAN'T BARE TO LOOK...
ME AND MY STUPID PLANS...
WE'D BETTER CHECK, JUST IN CASE...
STILL GOT THAT PISTOL ON YA?
YEAH.
PLEASE LET THEM ALL BE DEAD... PLEASE, PLEASE...
HMMM...I WONDER WHAT THEY WERE TRANSPORTING BACK HERE...

OH, JEEZ...
GROANNN...
?!? WAZZAT?
OH NO...
UGHH...
..HELP ME... PLEASE...
BLAM!
?!? WHAT WAS THAT?
ARE YOU OKAY, PERRY?
YEAH..., AND THEY'RE ALL DEAD...
I WAS JUST... MAKING SURE, IS ALL.
OH, WELL, THAT'S GOOD, IN A WAY...
BUT CHECK THIS OUT, PERRY! YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!
IN A MINUTE...
SORRY, PAL, BUT I NEED THIS RIFLE WAY MORE THAN YOU DO...
HURRY! WE'VE HIT THE JACKPOT!

-LOOK! WE'VE GOT BLANKETS, FLASHLIGHTS, BATTERIES, WATER PROOF PONCHOS...
REALLY? WOW!
AND BEST OF ALL ARE THESE "READY TO EAT" ARMY MEALS...
WE'RE SET FOR THE WHOLE WINTER NOW!
Meal READY-TO-EAT INDIVIDUAL
BONELESS PO
CHOP
M.R.E.
WELL I'LL BE...
OMIGOD! TAMPONS!
...ONLY PROBLEM NOW IS HOW TO GET ALL THIS STUFF TO THE CABIN...
IT'S GONNA TAKE SEVERAL TRIPS, ASSUMING NO ONE ELSE FINDS IT FIRST.
WHY DON'T WE STAY HERE, THEN? WE CAN LIVE INSIDE THE TRUCK...
OOH, I DUNNO...
WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE ROAD...
WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES LOOKING FOR THEM?
I KNOW— WE'LL COVER THE TRUCK IN BRANCHES, AND ERASE ALL TRACES OF THE ACCIDENT...
THAT WAY WE'LL MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF THE TRUCK BEING DISCOVERED...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK!
BUT OKAY...
FIRST I'D BETTER REMOVE THE BEAR TRAP BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FLIES OFF THE CLIFF...
DON'T THROW IT AWAY, THOUGH. WE MIGHT NEED TO USE IT AGAIN!

FINALLY...
WELP, THERE IT IS, "HOME SWEET HOME"...
ASSUMING NO ONE'S MOVED INTO IT IN THE MEANTIME, THAT IS.
IT LOOKS ABANDONED TO ME...
AND IT'S SO TINY!

IT'S STILL EMPTY, ALL RIGHT...
IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS WHEN WE LEFT IT...
WHAT'S THAT AWFUL STINK?
SMELLS LIKE STALE FARTS!

IT'S PROBABLY LEFT OVER FROM ME AND GORDO...
ALL THAT GAMEY MEAT GAVE US INTESTINAL DISTRESS...
IT DID? EW!
AND YOU EXPECT ME TO EAT THAT STUFF? FORGET IT!

THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS AIR THIS PLACE OUT...
AND WHILE I TRY TO MAKE THIS PLACE LIVABLE, YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE TRUCK TO RETRIEVE MORE SUPPLIES...
WHAT? NOW?
THAT'LL TAKE UP THE ENTIRE REST OF THE DAY!
CAN'T I JUST REST FOR NOW?
NO! SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT FIND IT!
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF!
SO GO NOW!
≤SIGH≤... VERY WELL...
I SURE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO RESTING ON THIS MATTRESS, THOUGH...
IT'S BEEN AGE'S...
TRY TO LOAD UP ON COATS AND BLANKETS...
IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD AT NIGHT.
SO, ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS PLACE? I KNOW IT AIN'T THE RITZ...
IT'LL DO, ONCE IT'S CLEANED UP...
I MOSTLY LIKE THAT IT'S JUST "OURS"...
YEAH, ME TOO.
AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO "RESTING" ON A MATTRESS TONIGHT, TOO.
SMOOCH!
NOW GET GOING! BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
YES, MA'AM! I'M OFF!

MONTHS LATER...
PERRY, DO WE STILL HAVE THAT BEAR TRAP HANDY?
I THINK SO. WHY?
BECAUSE WE'RE STARTING TO RUN LOW ON FOOD, AND—
OH NO! I'M NOT GONNA RISK KILLING SOMEONE AGAIN!
AND I THOUGHT WE HAD ENOUGH TO LAST THE WINTER!
WE'RE GOING THROUGH IT FASTER THAN I THOUGHT...
YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH IT, YOU MEAN! YOU'VE BEEN EATING LIKE A PIG!
I SHOULD GO HUNTING INSTEAD.
I CAN'T EAT THAT STUFF, PERRY! IT MAKES ME NAUSEOUS! NOW MORE THAN EVER!
EAT LESS, THEN! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO EAT SO MUCH, ANYWAY?
I... UH... THINK I MAY BE PREGNANT...
OH?
OH...
OH, NO...
WE KNEW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, PERRY! IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED IT TO HAPPEN...
I KNOW, I KNOW, NO NEED TO EXPLAIN...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING "FOOD SHOPPING" WITH THE BEAR TRAP...
SEE YOU LATER...
I HOPE.
SLAM!
SIGH..
10.

HOURS LATER...
..PREGNANT... MAN, WHAT A DISASTER!
I GUESS THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN...
I JUST CHOSE NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...
BUT WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS OUR CHILD GOING TO HAVE?
ASSUMING IT SURVIVES AT ALL, THAT IS...
SIGH... AT LEAST THESE ARMY CLOTHES ARE KEEPING ME WARM RIGHT NOW...
BARROOOOM...
VARROOOOOOM...
?!? WHOA!
I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR THAT CAR COMING!
BLAM!
SKREEEE....PAFF.
GOOD, HE'S SLID INTO THAT SNOW-BANK...
—CRAP! HE'S SOME KIND OF COP!
OH WELL, HERE GOES NOTHIN'...
?!?
HANDS UP, PAL!
GOT ANY FOOD ON YA? YOU'D BETTER!
—HUH? WHOA! NO NEED FOR THAT, SON!
I'M HERE TO HELP!

HUH? HELP WITH WHAT?
I'M GUESSING YOU'RE TRYING TO SURVIVE OUT HERE ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT?
ARMY FATIGUES, M-16 RIFLE... HE'S GOTTA BE THE ONE...
WHAT'S IT TO YA?
OKAY, SO MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS BAD OFF AS SOME PEOPLE...
BUT IT'S STILL MONTHS AWAY FROM SPRING, AND —
GET TO THE POINT!
L-LOOK, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER BACK IN THE CITY!
SCHOOLS ARE RE-OPENING, FOLKS ARE GOING BACK TO WORK...
R-REALLY?
NOT THAT THING'S ARE TOTALLY BACK TO NORMAL...
BUT THEY'VE IMPROVED ENOUGH THAT THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO STILL BE OUT HERE...
YOU GOT A FAMILY WITH YOU? BECAUSE YOU CAN ALL COME BACK WITH ME...
THAT'S WHY I'M UP HERE, TO FIND FOLKS LIKE YOU—
—WAIT A MINUTE— YOU'RE A COP!
HUH? N-NO! I'M A FOREST RANGER—
SAME DIFFERENCE!
AND I BET YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE KILLER OF THOSE ARMY MEN, AREN'T YOU?
"ARMY MEN"? I D-DON'T—
BLAM!
...UGH... OH GOD...
OH, BOY!! "HOT POCKETS"!

THE FOLLOWING SPRING...
I'M GOING FORAGING FOR A BIT...
MAYBE DO A LITTLE FISHING AS WELL...
FEEL FREE TO HUNT SOME WILD GEESE IF YOU SEE ANY...
I LIKE THE WAY THOSE THINGS TASTE!
HOW YA FEELING, BY THE WAY?
FINE. BETTER THAN YESTERDAY, ANYWAY.
I JUST WANT THIS THING OUT OF ME AT THIS POINT...
WELL, TRY TO STAY OFF YOUR FEET TODAY, OKAY?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO...
BYE! BE SAFE!
HMMM... GUESS I'LL READ THIS SURIVAL BOOK AGAIN...
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE TO READ...
LATER...
...ZZZZZZZZ...
-HEY THERE, HILLBILLY WOMAN! WHATCHA READING?
?!

WOOPS! DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU THERE...
I MEAN NO HARM, I ASSURE YOU!
OH YEAH?
THEN WHY THE GUN?
OOPS! SORRY...
YA CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL THESE DAYS...
—HEY! I KNOW THAT BOOK!
YOU DO?
HOW TO SURVIVE ALONE IN THE WOODS
SURE! MY OLD PAL PERRY HAD A COPY OF IT...
IN FACT, THAT IS HIS COPY!
SAY, I BET I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
?!? YOU DO?
SURE! YOU'RE THAT CHICK FROM THE WOMEN'S CAMP —THE ONE PERRY HAD HIS EYE ON..
I SEE THE TWO OF YOU HAVE BEEN GETTING ALONG WELL, HA-HA!
YOU MUST BE GORDO.
GOOD GUESS...
SO, IS PERRY INSIDE?
HE WENT HUNTING— AND SHOULD BE BACK ANY MINUTE!
"HUNTING"? EH? 'BOUT TIME HE LEARNED TO USE A GUN...
HEY, THE CABIN LOOKS NICE! NOTHING LIKE A WOMAN'S TOUCH...
WHAT DO YOU WANT? I CAN TELL YOU WANT SOMETHING.
WELL, SEEING HOW YOU TWO ARE ALL SETTLED IN HERE, I'D LIKE TO MAKE YOU A PROPOSITION...
REGARDING WHAT?

WELL, LAST FALL I WAS WORKING MY WAY BACK TO THE CITY, SINCE I SIMPLY HAD NO OTHER PLACE TO GO...
...BUT WHILE PASSING A POST OFFICE I SAW A WANTED POSTER WITH MY FACE ON IT!
IT TURNS OUT MY TRUCK WAS PARKED OUTSIDE A HOUSE WHERE AN ENTIRE FAMILY WAS KILLED AND ROBBED...
SO NATURALLY I'M THE PRIME SUSPECT, EVEN THOUGH I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...
SORRY TO HEAR IT...
THAT MUST SUCK.
OH, IT DOES!
ESPECIALLY SINCE I REMEMBER EXACTLY WHERE AND WHEN MY TRUCK WAS STOLEN— AND BY WHOM...
SO IF I EVER DO GET CAUGHT I NOW CAN LEAD THEM RIGHT TO THE REAL CULPRITS...
—WHOA! NOT SO FAST, YOU!
I'VE GOTTA GET A GUN...
GRAB!
THUD!
-OOF!
OOH! YOU DIDN'T LAND ON YOUR BELLY, I HOPE...
GET AWAY FROM ME!
LOOK, I'M NOT PASSING JUDGEMENT, SINCE I'VE DONE PLENTY OF REGRETABLE DEEDS MYSELF...
AND I DON'T WANT TO SQUEAL EITHER, BUT THE WAY THINGS STAND I'D SAY THE TWO OF YOU OWE ME...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH US?

WOULD YOU MIND? I KNOW IT'LL BE A BIT CROWDED, WHAT WITH THE BABY AND ALL, BUT I—
?!? WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAIR?
AND YOUR TEETH?
AND YOU'VE GOT SORES ALL OVER YOU!
WHAT, THESE? OH, JUST AN ALLERGIC REACTION OF SOME KIND...
"ALLERGIC REACTION" MY ASS!
NO WAY ARE YOU GONNA LIVE HERE WITH MY BABY!
BUT... I...
OH, WHAT'S THE USE... I'M DONE FOR ANYWAY...
?!?!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT GUN?!
BLAM!
MIDGE! ARE YOU OKAY?
I SAW HIM REACH FOR HIS GUN!
HE WASN'T AIMING IT AT ME, PERRY!
HE WAS ABOUT TO KILL HIMSELF!
REALLY? GORDO? WHY?
I DUNNO! HE WAS SICK OR SOME-THING...
OH, GOD... I WAS SO AWFUL TOWARDS HIM, TOO... =SOB=
AWW, DON'T FEEL BAD, MIDGE...
—LOOK! I GOT YOU A GOOSE!
?

END.

PAUL REVERE AND JOHN SINGLETON-COPLEY IN "ARTIST VS. ARTISAN"
A PORTRAIT OF A PORTRAIT BY PETER BAGGE ©2007
BOSTON, 1770...
HELLO, PAUL? I—
OH, YOU'RE BUSY...
I'LL BE DONE IN A MINUTE...
UNGH! GOD! YOU'RE KILLING ME, REVERE! PLEASE, STOP!
WE CAN FINISH UP TOMORROW, MR. JONES...
FAT CHANCE, YOU...YOU BLOODY BUTCHER!
HEY, JOHNNY-BOY! HOW'S BUSINESS?
OH THE PAIN...
NOT SO GOOD...
WHICH IS WHY I'M REDUCED TO PAINTING MINIATURES OF MY PREVIOUS PORTRAITS...
YEAH, TIMES ARE TOUGH...
I'VE HAD TO RESORT TO DENTISTRY TO MAKE ENDS MEET LATELY...
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY SILVERSMITHING IN AGES...
AHH, BUT THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...
I NEED SOME SILVER FRAMES MADE FOR THESE MINIATURES...
I KNOW SILVER IS RARE THESE DAYS, BUT THE CUSTOMER INSISTS!
DID YOUR CLIENT GIVE YOU ANY SILVER I COULD USE?
ER, NO. I—
AND HOW WILL YOU PAY FOR THEM? YOU STILL OWE ME FOR THE LAST SET I MADE.
I'LL PAY YOU AS SOON AS I GET PAID! I SWEAR!
YEAH, RIGHT. I'VE HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE.

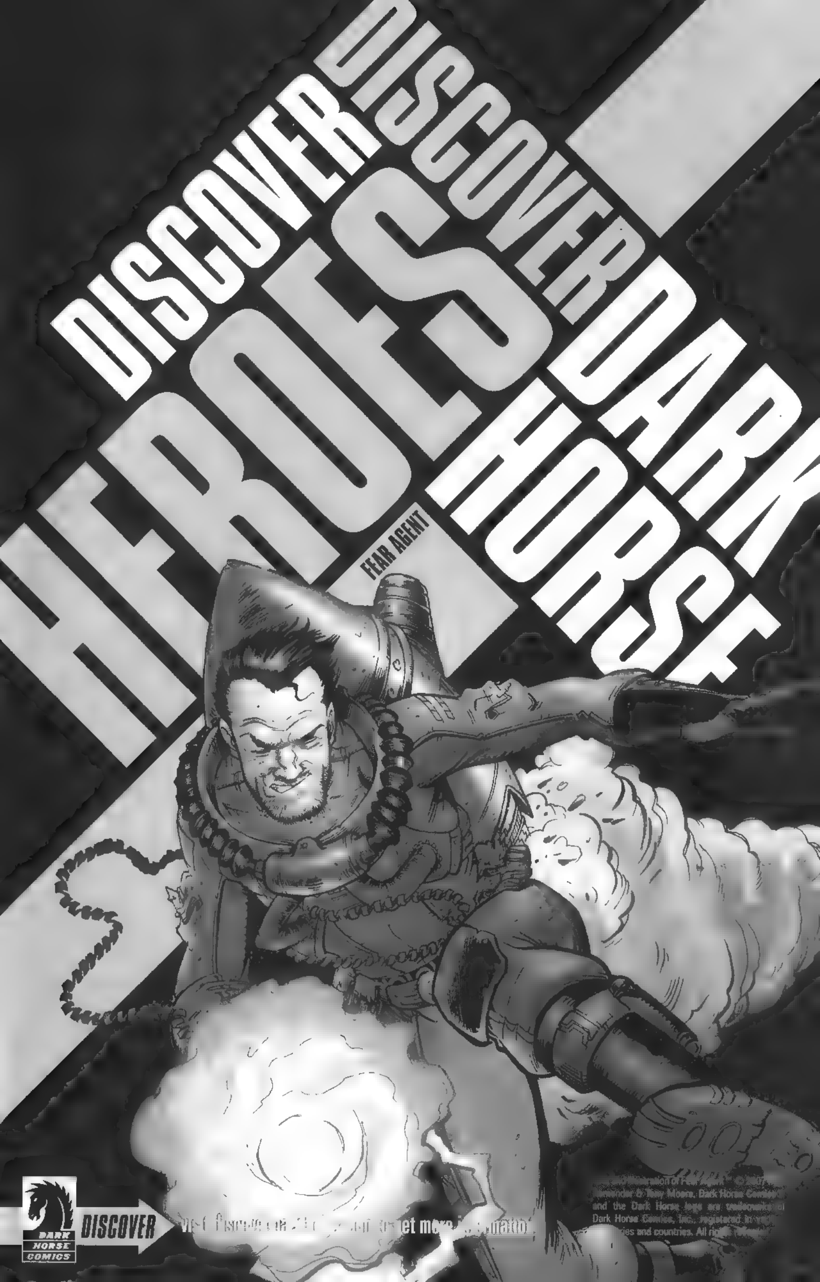
HEY, I KNOW! I'LL PAINT YOUR PORTRAIT!
THAT OUGHT TO SETTLE ALL MY DEBTS, BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE!
HOW DO YOU FIGURE?
HOW? WHY, EVERYONE WANTS ME TO PAINT THEM!
I'M THE GREATEST ARTIST IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE!
OKAY, OKAY, YOU CAN PAINT ME...
HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO SIT FOR IT?
IT DEPENDS... THREE FULL DAYS, MAYBE MORE...
THREE DAYS?! LIKE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?!
WHAT AM I GETTING MYSELF INTO?!
...SAY, WHO'S THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?
OH, DR. CHURCH ASKED ME TO MAKE AN ENGRAVING OF HIS GRANDFATHER...
...THE ALLEGED "GREAT INDIAN FIGHTER", CAPTAIN CHURCH...
I HOPED TO FIND AN EXISTING PORTRAIT OF HIM TO COPY FROM IN THIS BOOK OF FAMOUS ENGLISHMEN, ONLY HE ISN'T IN IT...
WHY WOULD HE BE? HE ISN'T FAMOUS OR AN ENGLISHMAN.
BUT IN HIS PLACE IS THIS PORTRAIT OF SOMEONE NAMED CHURCHILL...
THAT'S CHARLES CHURCHILL, A WELL-KNOWN WRITER.
CHARLES CHURCHILL
POET, SATIRIST
B: FEB 1731 - D: NOV, 1764
SO I TRACED HIS PICTURE INSTEAD, AND ADDED A MUSKET AND POWDER-HORN...
...AND VIOLÁ! IT'S BEN CHURCH'S GRAND-DAD!
HAW! HAW! YOU JUST DREW THE WORLD'S ROUGHEST, TOUGHEST POET!
YOU DON'T THINK BEN WILL CARE, DO YOU?
LIKE HE'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?
BUT WHY COPY AT ALL, PAUL? WHY NOT USE A MODEL, OR YOUR OWN IMAGINATION?

BECAUSE I CAN'T DRAW. WHY DO YOU THINK?
IS THAT WHY YOU BLATANTLY COPIED FROM MY HALF-BROTHER HANK'S DRAWING OF THE KING STREET MASSACRE*?
I SEE...
* AKA: THE "BOSTON MASSACRE"
HEY, HANK AND I MADE A DEAL! I GAVE HIM THE ENGRAVING TO MAKE HIS OWN PRINTS, WITH HIS OWN NAME ON 'EM!
BESIDES, HE COPIED FROM MY ORIGINAL COURT ROOM DIAGRAMS OF THE EVENT, SO WHO "STOLE" FROM WHOM? HMMM?
:SIGH.:
WHAT?
ALL THIS COPYING AND SIGNATURE SWAPPING...
DON'T YOU TAKE ANY PRIDE IN YOUR OWN WORK?
I TAKE PRIDE IN A JOB WELL DONE...
... AND AS LONG AS I GET PAID, THEN WHO CARES WHOSE NAME IS ON IT?
THAT TEA POT IS ONE OF YOURS, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, ONLY THE GUY WHO COMMISSIONED IT WENT BANKRUPT...
SO I WAS GONNA MELT IT DOWN TO MAKE YOUR FRAMES...
WHAT?!
YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING!
THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS YOU'VE EVER MADE!
NO WAY WILL YOU DESTROY IT TO MAKE MY STUPID FRAMES!
GRAB!
BUT, I CAN'T SELL THE DAMN THING, JOHN...
AND WE NEED THE SILVER!
PAUL, IT KILLS ME HOW YOU'VE GONE FROM BEING THE WORLD'S GREATEST SILVERSMITH TO THE WORLD'S WORST POLITICAL CARTOONIST...
YOU CAN'T EVEN DRAW, FOR GODSSAKES..
SO? AT LEAST MY CARTOONS ARE FOR A GOOD CAUSE.
OH? WHAT "GOOD CAUSE" IS THAT?
?!? "WHAT GOOD—"
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE MARRYING INTO THE CLARK FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?
LOUSY TORIES...

NOT THAT I DISLIKE THEM, AND I KNOW THAT YOU YOURSELF ARE APOLITICAL, BUT—
OOH! I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
LATER...
..NOW STAY SEATED JUST AS YOU ARE...
AND KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THAT TEA POT.
I FEEL DUMB...
WHY THE BLACK BACK-DROP?
I'M EXPERI-MENTING WITH LIGHT AND DARK...
DON'T YOU HAVE A NICER SHIRT YOU COULD WEAR?
THAT ONE'S PRETTY POORLY MADE...
THERE HAPPENS TO BE A BOYCOTT ON BRITISH LINEN RIGHT NOW...
..AND TO NOT WEAR THIS HOMESPUN SHIRT WOULD BE AN INSULT TO AMERICAN WOMANHOOD!
SORRY I ASKED...
SAY, WHAT ABOUT YOUR BLACK VEST?
THE ONE WITH THE GOLD BUTTONS...
YOU'RE NOT GONNA PAINT ME WEARING GOLD BUTTONS!
I JUST NEED IT FOR THE CONTRAST..
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE STUPID BUTTONS...
DO IT FOR ART'S SAKE, OKAY?
ART WHO?
AND LET'S PUT THIS PILLOW UNDER YOUR HAND...
THAT WAY YOU CAN HOLD THE POT AT AN ANGLE...
PILLOWS, GOLD BUTTONS — WHY NOT PUT ME IN A POWDERED WIG AS WELL?
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A FELLOW LOYALIST!

MY MOTIVES ARE PURELY AESTHETIC, I ASSURE YOU...
I ASSUME YOU DON'T WANT ME TO "FIX" YOUR CRACKED FINGER-NAILS, EITHER...
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO?
JUST A SUGGES-TION...
...SAY, COULD YOU MOVE YOUR ENGRAVING TOOLS MORE TOWARDS THE MIDDLE? THANKS.
DON'T YOU MEAN MY DENTIST TOOLS?
HA HA!
HA HA, VERY FUNNY...
TELL ME, THOUGH, PAUL —DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU AT LEAST A LITTLE IT?
DOES WHAT BOTHER ME?
THAT YOU, A MASTER ARTISAN, NOW HAS TO MAKE FALSE TEETH FOR A LIVING.
HEY. MAKING FALSE TEETH ISN'T EASY...
BESIDES, I'VE GOT EIGHT MOUTHS TO FEED, SO HOW I MAKE MONEY IS THE LEAST OF MY CONCERNS.
BUT WE'RE ARTISTS, PAUL...
WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM MERE CARPENTERS, OR DENTISTS... OR POLITICAL CARTOONISTS...
I DISAGREE. WE'RE ALL CRAFTSMEN, JUST PLYING DIFFERENT TRADES.
I'M TALKING ABOUT [redacted] AND SELF-EXPRESSION.
I EXPRESS MYSELF PLENTY WITH MY POLITICAL PRINTS THAT YOU LOOK SO DOWN UPON...
THAT THEY ALSO SELL QUITE WELL IS JUST ICING ON THE CAKE.
BUT IN EUROPE ACCOMPLISHED ARTISTS LIKE US ARE HELD IN THE HIGHEST REGARD...
PEOPLE WOULD PUT US ON PEDESTALS, REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH MONEY WE MIGHT MAKE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE "PUT ON A PEDESTAL".

THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE OLD WORLD, THE WAY THEY DEFINE A MAN'S WORTH IN SUCH ARTIFICIAL WAYS...
A MAN PROVES HIS WORTH BY HOW HE CONDUCTS HIS LIFE, RIGHT DOWN TO THE MOST MENIAL TASKS...
THANK YOU, COTTON MATHER...
—OOH! HOLD THAT POSE!
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HOW A WAR WITH ENGLAND MIGHT EFFECT YOUR LIVELIHOOD?
I ASK BECAUSE YOU SEEM TO WANT TO GO TO WAR...
I'M SURE I COULD DO WELL BY MASS PRODUCING BULLETS AND CANNON BALLS..
I'M SERIOUS.
SO AM I!
AND UNLIKE SILVER, LEAD IS CHEAP AND PLENTIFUL THESE DAYS...
WAR IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF WAR BROKE OUT? YOU'D HAVE TO CHOSE SIDES THEN.
MY FUTURE IN-LAWS WOULD SURELY MOVE TO ENGLAND IF THAT HAPPENED...
AND I'D BE SORELY TEMPTED TO JOIN THEM...
HEY, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT PAINTING I DID OF HANK AND HIS PET SQUIRREL?
I SUBMITTED IT TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY, AND IT WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED!
THE "ROYAL" ACADEMY, EH?
IS THAT A GOOD THING?
YES! THEY'RE EVEN CONSIDERING ME FOR MEMBER-SHIP!
ISN'T THAT GREAT?
IF YOU SAY SO...
CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
SILLY TWIT!
HOURS LATER...
I'M TIRED, AND HUNGRY... AND BORED...
LET'S GO GET DRUNK.
NO THANKS. I SHOULD BE GETTING HOME...
SAME TIME TOMORROW, THEN?
AS YOU WISH.
IF HE AND HIS FRIENDS DO START A WAR I'M TAKING THE FIRST BOAT BACK TO EUROPE!
AND SO HE DID! THE END!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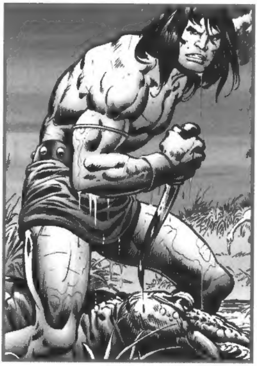

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HORSEPOWER

DISCOVER DISCOVER DARK HORSE

SEPTEMBER 2007

WHEN I THINK OF ADVENTURE IN COMIC BOOKS, I THINK WAY BACK TO 1938, AND *ACTION COMICS* #1—THAT LEGENDARY COMIC THAT INTRODUCED SUPERMAN. It's a tale that wholeheartedly embodies adventure—through its mighty hero, its gruesome villains, and its distressed damsels. But that's hardly to say that in a world as exciting as comic books, the definition of "adventure" is so narrow. So I've set out on a little adventure of my own—to delve into new comics that embody adventure, or that turn now-familiar comic-book clichés on their heads, or promise to be the sort of comics that, decades from now, future comics fans will remember when they think of how exciting comic books can be.

In September, Dark Horse is launching three new series crammed full of excitement, imagination, and the unknown. There are unique heroes (some human, some not), and a lot of nefarious villains, and worlds both new and familiar, and extraordinary risks and adventures. (There are not, however, many helpless damsels.) And in addition to being packed with fun and action, all three examine the state of the world through the lens of both the past and the future. It's this—the discovery of bizarre worlds, the companionship of astounding characters, and the thrill of great stories—that compels me to read further, and discover for myself what lies at the very core of adventure.

In the new series *The Umbrella Academy*, Gerard Way (who also happens to be the lead singer for My Chemical Romance—maybe you've heard of them?) introduces us to an unconventional, sometimes surly, and always quirky superhero team that takes on mad scientists, musicians, and the Eiffel Tower. They venture into the unknown, time and time again in an attempt to save humanity from inevitable destruction while simultaneously battling their own demons in a story that is just as much about heroics as it is about family.

Meanwhile, legendary comics creator Mike Mignola gives fan-favorite character Lobster Johnson—of *Hellboy* and *B.P.R.D.* fame—the opportunity to reign supreme in his very own series that takes place in the heart of 1930s New York City. In an attempt to way-lay a deadly prophecy, The Lobster goes up against gangsters, Nazis, and (of course) yetis in this cool, smart noir-adventure.

On the lighter side, Eisner Hall of Famer Sergio Aragonés and Mark Evanier return with their iconic hero in *Groo: Hell on Earth*. Here, the mighty warrior finds himself in a thriving city where he is in urgent need of employment. Groo finds that his job may turn into more responsibility than he bargained for when ominous weather begins to disrupt life in the thriving metropolis.

September is a great time to discover Dark Horse, whether jumping in at the start with a new comic-book series like those explored above, or a continuing series like Joss Whedon's Season Eight of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* or Rick Remender and Tony Moore's post-apocalyptic series *Fear Agent*. Then again, maybe you're here to gain some insight into your favorite galaxy far, far away. For that, you'll have to check out Horsepower next month.

In the meantime, I entreat you to take a chance, try something new, and find your sense of adventure.

Sierra Hahn

DARK HORSE HEROES

JOHN OSTRANDER, writer of *Star Wars: Legacy*, takes readers on monthly trips through the vast and trouble-some world of the *Jedi and the Sith*. When discussing his own adventures, Ostrander marks marriage as his greatest, with both its rewards and challenges. Which is totally honorable and awesome.

Dark Horse employee JASON RICKERD is still searching for his most event-ful journey. He cites the usual things: high school, college, and moving away from the family, but he's anticipating that there may be something more—perhaps something that involves "swords, wizards, and explosions." Too bad that stuff isn't real.

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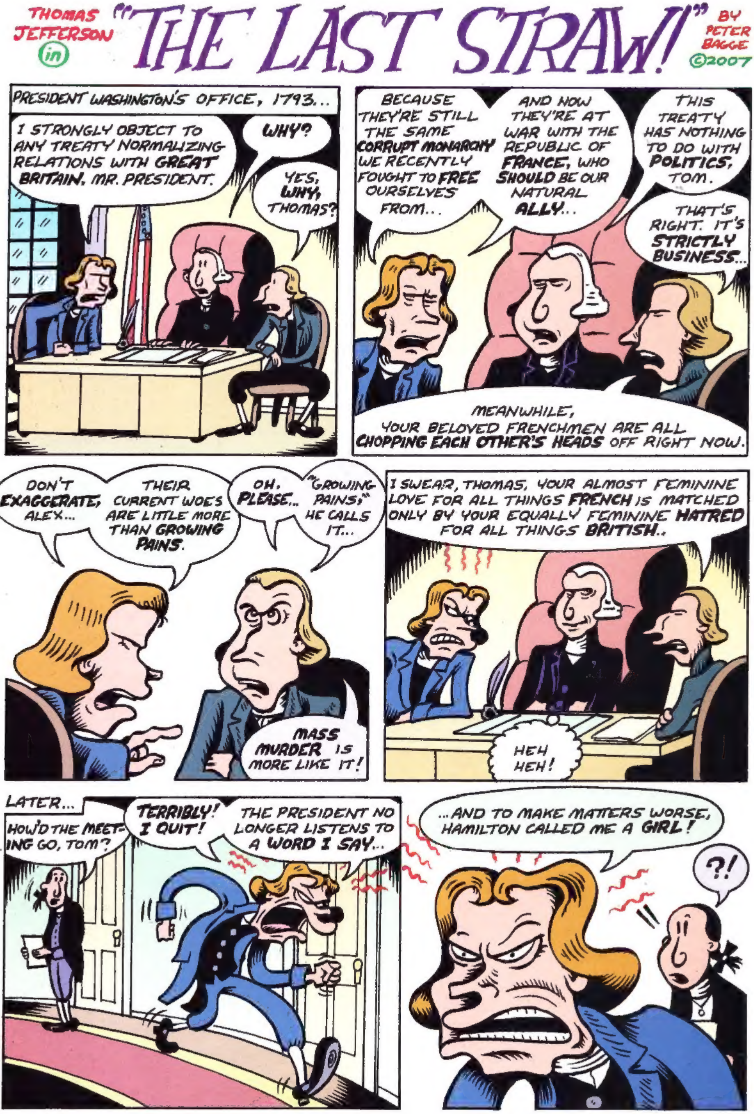

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